

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 FDRE-00 EA-06 OPR-02 A-01

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----- 014453

P 141545Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0891

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2805

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, SG

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: DAKAR 2715

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S REACTION TO MY DEMARCHE ON INDOCHINA REFUGEES IS THAT SENEGAL IS PARPARED TO HELP, BUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS COULD MAKE NO PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SUCH A POLICY OR INDICATE PUBLICLY HOW MANY IT WOULD ACCEPT. END SUMMARY.

2. I SUMMARIZED STATE TELS 097854, 102357, AND 107288 DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR MAY 14, POINTING OUT I HAD ALREADY RAISED MATTER ON APR 28 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER (DAKAR 2513), WHO SAID I SHOULD BRING IT DIRECTLY TO HIS ATTENTION. I LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE.

3. SENGHOR SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED REFUGEE PROBLEM WITH FRENCH AND INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS IN CONTEXT OF FRENCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THOSE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN'S NOW RESIDENT IN SENEGAL WHO DESIRED TO REMAIN WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FOR SENEGALESE NATIONALITY, IF THEY DESIRED-- OR FRENCH NATIONALITY IF THEY PREFERRED, AND THAT
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OPTION WAS OPEN TO THEM. THIS WAS ALREADY THE

CASE OF HIS ARCHITECT AND SEVERAL OTHER TECHNICIANS. SENEGAL NEEDED AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER TECHNICIANS, AND IN LINE WITH ITS MULTI-RACIAL POLICY COULD ABSORB SOME TRAINED REFUGEES, BUT THIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT FANFARE. SENGHOR SUGGESTED THAT HE WISHED TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIMES IN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH. HE SAID HIS MESSAGES TO THEM HAD BEEN CALCULATED TO ENCOURAGE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AND MODERATION.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR SENEGALESE WISH TO HELP ON REFUGEE PROBLEM BUT DESIRE ALSO TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE WITH NEW REGIMES IN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH. GOS WILL PROBABLY RESPOND FAVORABLY TO INITIATIVES FROM UN, FRENCH, AND INDIVIDUAL INDO-CHINESE IF GOS COOPERATION NOT EXPLOITED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. AGGREY

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